

Tennessee law requires an applicant for licensure by examination to be either a graduate of an approved professional (RN) school of nursing or an approved practical nursing (LPN) program in order to be eligible to take the licensure examination (NCLEX RN or PN).

For those who graduated from a school of nursing in a foreign country, see [Foreign Educated Nurse Memo](#).

The NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-PN examination applications are made available to the Tennessee Schools of Nursing and are not available through the internet. Graduates of schools outside of Tennessee may contact the board office for an examination packet. Effective June 1, 2006 applicants for initial licensure by examination must obtain a criminal background check.

Before an examination packet is mailed we need the following information.

1. Applicants name and mailing address.
2. Contact Number.
3. Exam Requested – RN or LPN?
4. Name and Location (city and state) of school of nursing.
5. Date of graduation from nursing program.
6. Have you taken the NCLEX-RN or NCLEX-PN before? If yes, which exam, state where seeking licensure and number of times taken.

Please request your packet by calling 1-800-778-4123 or local 532-5166.

Availability of Results

The licensure examination is scored and verified by NCS Pearson. Candidates may expect to receive their results by mail in seven to 10 working days after testing. Results for the nursing licensure examinations are reported as pass/fail. We do not post pass/fail to the state website or the phone system. You may check the phone system seven days after testing to see if you have been licensed (1-800-778-4123). Most of the time they are posted by 4:00 p.m. Check the website the day after results have been mailed at www.tennessee.gov.

Once again the information available is licensure status. Application in process means the individual has applied for licensure and has not yet been licensed.

Candidates passing the examination and approved for licensure receive a letter verifying licensure. The Board mails the original license and wallet certificate within 10 days.

Those candidates who fail the licensure examination are notified by mail and receive an enhanced candidate performance report to assist in identifying areas of weakness. Also enclosed are the applications to repeat the licensure examination.

FOREIGN EDUCATED NURSE MEMO

FROM: Martha I. Barr, MSN, RN
Nursing Consultant
Tennessee Board of Nursing
Email: martha.barr@state.tn.us

RE: INFORMATION FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION AS A FOREIGN NURSE GRADUATE

Thank you for requesting information regarding licensure in Tennessee as a registered nurse.

Professional nurses educated in a country outside of the United States or its jurisdictions, whether or not licensed in another country or jurisdiction, must qualify for licensure by taking and passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN®).

Applicants must have graduated with substantially the same general nursing education as required by the Board for graduates of schools of nursing in Tennessee at the time such applicant was accepted for licensure by examination in the original foreign jurisdiction.

When the Board has reasonable doubt of an applicant's ability to comprehend the English language to a degree sufficient to permit the applicant to discharge his/her duties as a nurse in this State with safety to the public, the Board may require him/her to pass an examination to demonstrate such ability.

Foreign educated nurses must hold a Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) certificate to be eligible for licensure by examination.

Please provide us with your, name, mailing address, phone number (U.S.) and email address with all correspondence. The following additional information is needed prior to sending a foreign nurse examination application packet:

Do you hold a Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) certificate? _____

If so, CGFNS ID # _____

Do you hold licensure as a registered nurse in another country or state? _____

If yes, where _____ what year licensed _____

Name of nursing school and address _____

Year Graduated _____ Degree that was awarded _____

Have you previously written the NCLEX-RN® exam? _____

If yes, what year? _____ Number of times? _____ What State made you eligible for writing the exam? _____

Canadian graduates contact the Tennessee Board of Nursing regarding eligibility requirements for licensure by examination. Please provide a phone number and/or email address with all communications with the Board.

If you **do not** hold a **Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) certificate** you are **not eligible** at this time for licensure in Tennessee by examination. Contact the CGFNS office for information regarding a certificate. Their phone numbers and address are as follows: 1) application request at 215-349-8767; 2) business office at 215-222-8454; 3) address – Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools, 3600 Market Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2651; 4) web site: <http://www.cgfns.org>.

SH/G3104229/BN